

Appln. No. 09/868,490
Amdt. dated December 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The October 18, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, the specification and claims are amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 18, 2001 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because the Examiner contends that it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language.

In response, Applicant's attorney, Robert Michal, conducted an interview with Examiner Torres on October 22, 2004. The courtesy of Examiner Torres in discussing the Information

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Disclosure Statement with Applicant's attorney is acknowledged and appreciated. During the interview, Applicant's attorney pointed out to Examiner Torres that the Information Disclosure Statement dated June 18, 2001 does properly comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because the Information Disclosure Statement included a copy of the Search Report issued in connection with the corresponding PCT Application. During the interview the Examiner indicated that a copy of the Search Report was not in the Patent Office file and he acknowledged that a copy of the International Search Report would serve as a concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language references.

In response, submitted herewith is another copy of the International Search Report which was submitted with the June 18, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement. Also enclosed is a copy of the June 18, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement. It is respectfully requested that in view of submission of the copy of the International Search Report, the Examiner return an initialed copy of the June 18, 2001 Form PTO-1449 to indicate that the references listed thereon have been considered and made of record in this application.

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SPECIFICATION

In the Office Action the Examiner indicates that the disclosure should use the headings "Brief Summary of the Invention" and "Detailed Description of the Invention." In response, even though these headings are not required but are preferred in applications, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended the disclosure to include the headings "Brief Summary of the Invention" and "Detailed Description of the Invention" as requested by the Examiner.

In view of the amendment of the disclosure, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 1, 4 and 5 are objected to because of certain informalities. In response, claims 1, 4 and 5 are amended in a sincere effort to overcome the objections thereto. In view of the amendment of the claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 4 and 5 are respectfully requested.

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ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claims 1-10 are allowable over the prior art of record is acknowledged and appreciated. In view of the amendment of claims 1, 4 and 5, claims 1-10 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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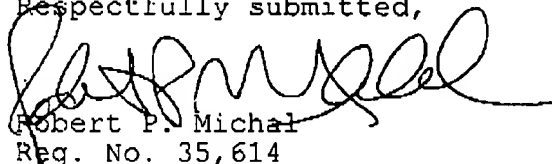
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encls.: Form PTO-1449 dated June 18, 2001 with English language
International Search Report and original Japanese
language Search Report